

Each Monday afternoon, Armando, Joe and other teens meet at the Boys & Girls Club of Indio to talk about the trials of gang involvement. They agreed to share their stories on the condition that no real names be used. They're afraid of reprisals.

During a typical meeting, they stroll in, shake hands with everyone in the room and plop down for an hour of honesty.

As threatening as their looks appear—some with freshly shaved heads donned what they described as the gang uniform, white T-shirts, dark work pants and Nikes—their words reveal the opposite.

These boys are scared.

"I look around the room and wonder how many of us are going to wind up dead, how many will be in prison," said Raymond, a 16-year-old fresh from Indio Juvenile Hall.

"Personally, it scares me," said Armando, who added that he now spends all his free time at the club on Date Avenue. "These guys are tough. And they think by shooting someone, it makes them the toughest."

What are they killing and dying for?

"Race, property, land, streets, neighborhoods, girlfriends," Armando said.

"Every day's a risk," said Joe, a 16-year-old Indio boy who has been in Juvenile Hall three times. "You could be driving to pick up a girl, and somebody shoots at you."

Or, he said, you might get it just for looking at somebody wrong.

A self-described "mean guy" before being exposed to the Boys & Girls Club, Joe gave animated descriptions of why he participated in gang activity.

Once, he said, he got into a battle with a white man who, he claimed, was "looking kind of crazy at me."

Another time, Joe said, he beat up an elderly white man who was coughing near the pay phone he was using. He said his friend "decked" the man's wife.

Joe said he felt bad about the second incident when he learned the man had cancer.

Exaggerated, perhaps, said program counselor Ron Houston. But, by the same token, such testimonials are evidence that everyone—regardless of race or gender—is at risk of gang violence.

"You never know exactly what motivates or drives them," said Houston, who was an Indio police officer for 17 years. "A lot of it is peer pressure. They commit these violent acts to be accepted."

Frightening for society, the number of gangs continue to grow, he said. During his early years on the police force, there were a few gangs in town.

"Now every section of town has its own," Houston said. Even worse, the members are being recruited at 11 and 12 years old.

"They're the scariest," he said. "They don't have any remorse. They'll do anything to impress the older members."

Houston and Program Director Tony Williams have become father figures to the teens, many of whom never had one. Houston said the body language of the teens—the light punches, arms around him, the kidding—lets him know a connection has been made.

"We take this seriously," said Williams, 29, who worked more than two years with some of the teens during their time at Juvenile Hall. "We are genuinely concerned about kids. We want them to know that once they walk in that door, there's somebody here who cares about them."

NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR, FELIX GUADARRAMA, HONORED

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Officer Felix Guadarrama has been selected by a committee of his peers to be the North Miami Police Department's Officer of the Year, 1995. I am certain you will agree with me that Officer Guadarrama is a fitting choice. His actions on the force since 1990 have distinguished him as an officer of valor.

During 1995, Officer Guadarrama received numerous commendations from his supervisors, the community, and other police agencies. Many noted his compassion, expertise, and judgment in handling chaotic situations. His superiors credit Guadarrama with saving the life of the victim of a violent attack.

In addition to his daily activities, Officer Guadarrama serves on the North Miami Police Honor Guard and is assigned to the motorcycle unit. He actively raises money for the Police Officers' Assistance Trust Fund and has represented the department in motorcycle escorts at local prestigious events like the recent Summit of the Americas.

Thank you, Officer Guadarrama for your bravery and diligence in the line of duty. You are certainly a credit to our community.

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTA MAULIFFE AND THE ENTIRE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "CHALLENGER"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the crew of the space shuttle *Challenger*, and to recognize in particular, Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, one of Framingham State College's most distinguished graduates.

Ten years ago, on January 28, 1986, the *Challenger* disaster occurred and changed millions of lives instantly. For the families and friends of the astronauts, it meant incomprehensible loss. For young school children throughout the world, a dashing of hopes. But hope springs eternal.

We are fortunate in this country that our citizens respond so well to adversity. This national tragedy of a decade ago also served to spark the imagination of educators and students to develop a fitting tribute to our Nation's first teacher-astronaut.

In October 1994, Framingham State College opened the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center and the Challenger Learning Center, two innovative educational facilities. Inspired by the memory of the *Challenger* crew, the learning centers serve as a continuation of part of the *Challenger* mission: to motivate students to pursue math, science, and technology studies by providing them with exciting educational programs which use space exploration as a theme, and to energize teachers by providing new and interesting training.

In addition, Framingham State College is commemorating the 10th anniversary of the *Challenger* mission by sponsoring a program entitled "Christa's Teachers," a teachers' honor roll which pays tribute to Christa McAuliffe, America's teacher in space, by recognizing the best teachers in America.

Christa Corrigan McAuliffe and the *Challenger* crew were true American heroes. They have left an indelible mark on the fabric of our society, particularly in education; and their enduring legacy is the network of Challenger Centers throughout our Nation which links our students and teachers and captures the imaginations of millions.

SAMHSA REGULATION

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, the Food and Drug Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], both of which are located in the Department of Health and Human Services, have proposed tobacco regulations. FDA has just begun its regulatory process by issuing proposed regulations last August, while SAMHSA's final regulations are set to take effect this February. SAMHSA's regulations implement the so-called Synar amendment, which Congress passed with bipartisan support in 1992 to address the problem of underage tobacco use.

The SAMHSA regulations are superior to FDA's more extreme approach. The SAMHSA regulations implement a clear congressional mandate. They will do a better job in a shorter time, with much less Federal involvement and much greater respect for the proper role of the States in our constitutional system.

The Synar amendment conditions substance abuse grant assistance to the States on their taking steps to reduce youth access to tobacco and directs SAMHSA to issue implementing regulations. Today every State prohibits the sale of tobacco products to minors and imposes penalties for violations. In fact, as a result of the Synar amendment, since 1992 some 30 States have taken additional legislative steps to reduce youth access to tobacco.

While the SAMHSA regulations were still pending within HHS, FDA—an agency with no jurisdiction over tobacco and no authorization from Congress to act on youth tobacco issues—published its own extreme proposal to regulate tobacco products as medical devices. FDA is engaged in a blatant attempt to circumvent Congress and override the States. FDA's rules would nullify or supplant dozens of State youth access laws, in favor of an extremist, one-size-fits-all regulatory straight-jacket imposed by Washington bureaucrats. FDA's proposed rules are an end-run around Congress and the States.

Mr. Speaker, in contrast to FDA's extreme proposal, SAMHSA's approach allows flexible responses by the States to reduce underage smoking. FDA's proposed regulations should be withdrawn in favor of SAMHSA's final regulations, which directly implement Congress's will show proper respect for the constitutional authority of the States.